agencies for new connections during the above period; and

(d) the details of additional connections released and the number of persons in the waiting list, agency-wise in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The details regarding number of distributorships their age group, number of LPG connections released through these distributorships during the last three years i.e. 1994-95 to 1996-97 and waiting list with the LPG distributorships functioning in Chhattisgarh Region and Ujjain District of Madhya Pradesh are given below :

	Number	Age Group	Number of LPG connections released during 1994-95 to 1996-97	Waiting List
Chhattisgarh	62	1963-1996	37056	127164
Ujjain Distt.	16	1982-1996	14428	26735

[Translation]

Displaced of Tehri Dam

5095. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the people from submerged area of the ongoing dam project at Tehri Garhwal in Uttar Pradesh and other people from the district as well as the people of different categories are given priority in employment;

(b) if so, the total number of posts of various categories filled up during the last three years and category-wise number of people from submerged area out of them;

(c) whether T.H.D.C. is ignoring people of the area while giving employment; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) The Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited (THDC) accords preference in employment in the notified vacancies to the persons belonging to submergence areas of the Tehri Hydroelectric Project. The details of category-wise posts filled during 1994, 1995 and 1996 are given below :

Sl. No.	Category of Posts	Total Posts filled	No. of Persons belonging to Submergence area
1.	Executives	33	14*
2.	Supervisors	17	14
3.	Workman	25**	17

Persons from non-submergence area were recruited against specialised posts. The persons from submergence area were not readily available locally and those against the reserved vacancies.

Includes two reserved vacancies and four appointments on compassionate grounds.

National Housing Bank

5096. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned NHB pays Rs. 912 crore to Grindlays" appearing in 'Indian Express' dated 18th April, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the points raised therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) National Housing Bank (NHB), a fully owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has reported that in a matter of its dispute with the ANZ Grindlays Bank P.L.C. in connection with certain securities transactions put through during March-April, 1992, it had entered into an agreement with ANZ National Grindlays Bank P.L.C. on 4th November, 1992 to refer the matter to a panel/Board of Arbitrators. The agreement *interalia* provided that the award by majority shall prevail and also that NHB shall pay the disputed amount to ANZ Grindlays P.L.C. if it fails to establish its claim together with such interest as may be awarded, and that neither party shall adopt any proceedings to challenge the award until the payment is made as aforesaid. The learned arbitrators by a majority of two to one pronounced their award on 29th March, 1997 and NHB has accordingly pronounced their award on 29th March, 1997 and NHB has accordingly paid an amount of Rs. 912.22 crores (including interest) to ANZ Grindlays Bank P.L.C. At the request of NHB, RBI sanctioned term loan of Rs. 700 crores repayable after 15 years with interest @ 5% per annum with a stipulation that in the event of the award being finally set aside, the entire amount recovered from ANZ Grindlays Bank will be repaid to RBI. NHB provided the balance amount from its internal resources.

NHB has further reported that it has decided to challenge the majority award in the Special Court under the provisions of Indian Arbitration Act, 1940.

Acquisition of Nuclear Arms by Neighbouring Country

5097. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the gigantic array of nuclear arms, stockpiled across India's western borders;

(b) if so, whether Government would review the stand taken by her not to go nuclear unless we are forced; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?